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NORTH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

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(raw transcript)

13 Wrap up

>> Derrick Cogburn: So I'd like to take just a moment to try to quote/unquote wrap up. I want to be able to provide a quick summary of what's happened over the last two days. Before we do that though, I would like to start by just a few things. I know that Eduardo's going to have even more things, but I'd like to start by thanking some of the people behind the scenes including way in the back of the room. I'd like to thank Joly and his team.

[APPLAUSE].

>> Having done that kind of remote participation and knowing that Joly and Jose have been collaborating and provide ago fantastic experience for our online and remote participants, our extended audience. So let's give them another round of applause. That's just a super job.

[APPLAUSE]

>> Derrick: And I'd also like to thank Kathleen, running around somewhere. There is he shall.

[APPLAUSE]

>> Kathleen splits her time between multiple research centers here at American University and strategic initiatives and to be able to do all of that and we would not be here and had such a great experience over the last three days if it hadn't been for Kathleen. Another huge round of applause.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I am personally indebted to you very much. So thank you Kathleen.

And I also want to thank the rest of our AU team. Eduardo has been our commander in chief globally I have been our tackle commander in chief here on campus here as American university. I want to thank all of my colleagues involved with the -- our strategic research initiative on inclusive technology and policy. I mentioned everybody on the first day. I want to thank Fiona for all of her venue shopping hard work in bringing this initiative to our attention and an opportunity to work with these wonderful colleagues. I want to thank our vice provost Diana Burley who took tremendous amount of time for a senior administrator to come here and open this conference on a weekend. So I want to thank her tremendously. I want to thank Kathy Kleiman, deputy director Filippo and our researchers Dhivaya, Andrea, and Haiman. Let's give them a big round I've applause.

[APPLAUSE]

>> So I want to say just a little bit about what we've accomplished over two days. This has been an amazing experience over the last two days. It opened with Eduardo and Dianena thanking and welcoming up here to campus. Diana talked about our beautiful American University campus and how excited we were to have you here. This building used to be our law school building and when the law school moved to its new beautiful location this building was a little bit fallow for a while and we took the time, we were one of the anchor tenants in the building to try to revitalize it and I'm pretty thrilled that we would have such a great location for this event. So I want to thank us at American university as well. So thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

>> Derrick: I wanted to set the context about diversity inclusive development and what I call the grand challenge hoping that everybody could see why it's important to bring

together all our ?rins, all of our technologies coming together and to help highlight the role of strategic frameworks like the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. ICANN and Joe Capatano, a former eagle helped to provide a introduction to how the DNS works. For many of you that was an introduction that us although us to communicate all over the world works at a very technical level. We had a panel on the universal acceptance of internationalized domain names led by Kathleen. It was a highly technical panel helping us to understand how universal acceptance programs work. We had Samard who helped us understand what universal acceptance actually is and how people can use the Web in their own scripts, own language. We talked about how the Internet doesn't connect to machines, it connects people and people need to be able to access the Internet in their own language, in their own words and it needs to be accessible. We talked about universal acceptance helps us to understand all domain names top level domains internationalized domain names and e-mail addresses shall all be treated equally. That was critically important. Susan Chalmers from NTIA highlighted the government procurement policies in being able to drive all kinds of related technology standards. I thought that was a particularly important point that if we want to drive accessibility and technology standards, government procurement can play a critical role in that process. Jonathan globing talked about public-private partnerships and led an insightful panel focusing on the importance of these two entities coming together public and private. One key take away is both public and private sector have to be involved. And they have to find areas where there interests are recognized. Both -- the interests of both public and private sector has to be identified and recognized.

When we talked about the state of the nation for persons with disabilities, \Dr.{~}\Doctor Filippo led a fascinating panel taking a deep dive into legal aspects of accessibility. Joe Alvarez presented a presentation of screen reading technology and other technology c's facilitate accessibility. Greg followed with key insights on legal strategies and cases including a case set is making its way to the supreme court. So thank you for sharing that with us. On the broadband panel, Jane Coffin led some exciting panel with some technological with all the slides, comparison on the United States and Canada. Even without her slides, Marita from telecommunity Canada was abled to help us see the importance of providing broadband access to rural Canada and some of the challenges facing Canada as it tries to support and expand across the country including First Nation communities. So thank you for sharing thattous.

Grace helped to you understand how NTIA has been tasked with organizing a 48 billion-dollar infrastructure law now which has four key components, rapping from the BEAD program which is \$42.45 billion in infrastructure investment. That is a huge contribution to

expanding Internet access across the United States. Ron De Sylvia was able to highlight how these projects work at the city and county level and how challenging it is and why we have to get involved at those levels of government as well and talked about experiences in the 400,000 person Loudoun county Virginia as an example. We also talked about how the pandemic has accelerated the nationally distributed workforce and with the BEAD program we talked about how the team from NTIA that is administering their program is spread out across the country with one person from the team in each country -- I'm sorry, each state across the United States and working all virtually. So I thought that was also fantastic and a positive result of the pandemic. Marita helped to highlight how Zoom and some of the free aspects allowed her team to be able to work and collaborate and Zoom really has highlighted why they chose when they left -- it wasn't Adobe connect was it? Was it Adobe connect? When they left Adobe connect they recognized the deficiencies and explicitly tried to put those pieces into place to make it this incredible Web conferencing tool plug those free elements. Our closing panel for the day as Naela said, I saved the best for last. I have more notes on that panel than any other panel and I can't go through all of them. It was absolutely fascinating. The focus that Naela led was on women and inclusion. And the opening panel -- I'm sorry, the opening question for the panel was how did you get into this field and the responses across the whole panel were absolutely fascinating. Cathy Klineman talked about her initial path into science and detoured into Internet and telecommunications. Tripti from the ICANN board talked about in the University of Maryland talked about her initial foray also into computer science and AI and how she's moved into this major role of providing core Internet structure in the Washington D.C. area and her current focus on quantum computing.

The second question really focused on what kind of challenges and barriers have they faced. And all of the panelists talked about many of the challenges that they face but they also talked about strategies and how they're overcoming those strategies. And I think even though the panel talked about automatic kinds of barriers there was a hopeful element to the panel that gave very key specific strategies that we can all follow to be more inclusive and to include women and include everybody in the process. Day two Eduardo opened us and we were treated with a former Eagle secretary general Doreen. One of the things we didn't highlight was Doreen was also brought back to campus in person as the inaugural recipient of our AU technology policy change maker award. And she came in person to accept the award and she came back the second year to give it to our second recipient, the archivists of the United States. Wolfgang and I tried to have a response to Doreen's presentation. Initially just focused on ITU and then broadening it out to talk about a whole range of historical elements in the multistakeholder global governance process. I think both of us were highlighting how important history is and to remember to learn and

remember and study that history so that you -- somebody said so that you're not doomed to repeat it but I would say so that you're ready for what's coming next.

We also had a wonderful panel led by Lorena on people centered approaches to community resiliency. We then had a discussion of this fantastic collaboration between AU and a new research entity, the DNS research federation, which is really trying to play an important role of aggregating the provision of data related to Internet governance and I think our particular example with our project of this critical data source, the decisions related to the UDRP, that had gone away. And that would not have been available except going to each individual domain service resolution service provider, each one searching and trying to download those. It would have been an enormously difficult task and the fact that we can now aggregate that, have it located in one place and be updated and available to researchers is an absolutely huge contribution. It was also wonderful to hear the ransomware research presentations and the research possibilities related to online pharmacies.

And I was -- I think we were all appreciative of the DNSRF that made their demo available and sponsoring the reception during that time. And then finally ending with a panel focused on seniors and the visually impaired and some of the strategies and challenges that are facing older people around the country and around the world. I think we had a fantastic panel where Shivali talked about what can be done with seniors in local communities, particularly focusing on Montgomery county here in Maryland where I used to live with Lou sharing the strategies of wild tech, and some of the new possible partnerships. Maybe moving to Brazil for a possible project.

And Jose came back and gave us another indemnitystration that I think floored all of us, including a person who studies assistive technology and teaches assistive technology. I was sitting up there just floored Jose Manolo, thank you so much. I want to give you a personal round of applause.

[APPLAUSE]

>> And then finally, I want to thank my advisory board chair. I have a global advisory board -- I have a local advisory board as well but I had them meet together as our joint advisory board and the chair of our joint advisory board is ambassador Louise Gallegos. Wanted to come here so badly in person. Been here many times for advisory board meetings. Been a colleague of mine, and he was -- he so wanted to be here in person and then on Sunday he said Derrick, I'm getting ready to go to New York for a whole week and Sunday is the only break I have after coming from China and so he said if you could please just let me be

virtual and asynchronous I would appreciate it. I appreciate Eduardo for saying yes we can do this. So the video that allowed him to talk about his work with the zero project and this possibility of bringing the strategies and the approaches to older persons and persons with disabilities together, perhaps in a new convention that can really highlight those two communities. And I thought that that really put a nice cap on that particular panel. So I just want to say thank you for having us for these two days. I think that this was a wonderful substantive discussion.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I want to thank the caption first that has been with us all the time.

[APPLAUSE]

>> And, you know, I don't speak that fast but there was one point I was going like that is -- when we doing ICANN we doing this sometimes we have to tell people slow down because they go like.

(Speaking fastly) you know, it's -- you have to be trained to do that because I will not be able to do that.

Definitely I want to thank American University.

[APPLAUSE]

>> Professor Cogburn, we had the first talks about this, I don't know how this link happened.

>> Fiona.

>> Fiona said. And remember, we were saying what is the theme for this year? Said, well, there's this inclusion activity. I said that's the one key things and then we prepared the program around that. So thank you so much for that. And thank you for having -- hosting us here in American University and to all of you next year is going to be in Puerto Rico in 2024. March. So whoever is there is coming to ICANN, please. We invite you, all of you. Some logistic stuff. We are going to have now a social. It's going to end about 54:56 and then the bus will take us all the way to the Marriott downtown where the ICANN conference is going to be. So with these words, I officially close NASIG 2023.

[APPLAUSE].

>> Thanks to all of you for participating in this school and I hope that you have gotten, you know, some knowledge, increase your knowledge on this things that are so important for all of us and people that we are not necessarily have disabilities we don't think about many times. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]